(e) if so, the details thereof and the remedial measures taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The number of projects and the number of non-governmental organisations working for physically handicapped and currently assisted under the scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities are 5 (Guwahati-2, Darang-1, Kamrup-2) and 3 respectively in the state of Assam. This ministry has no scheme for destitutes in Assam.

(b) and (c) The information is given in the table below:

Year of sanction	No. of complete proposals received and sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. lacs)
1996-97	Nil	Nil
1997-98	1	2.18
1998-99	5	12.21
1999-2000	3	7.00 (till date)

The incomplete proposals are referred back to the Non-Governmental Organisations seeking clarifications, wanting documents etc. There are 13 such cases.

(d) No, Sir. Complete Proposals received from NGOs complying with the requirements of the scheme alongwith requisite documents and state govt. recommendations are examined for sanction in the normal course.

(e) Does not arise.

News-Items "Bill for the Disabled all but Forgotten"

1931. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Bills for the disabled all but forgotten", appearing in the Times of India, dated 25th November, 1999;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take in order to improve the conditions of 60 million helpless persons in the country suffering from physical and mental disability?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the News-item, it has been mentioned that two bills viz. The National Trust Bill for Disabled Persons and the Disabilities Bill, intended to provide relief to the disabled are yet to be taken up by the Government for further action. The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Bill, 1999 has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 15.12.1999. The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha is now required to be passed in Rajya Sabha. As regards the Persons with Disabilities (Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, implementation of the Act is a continuous process which is being done by all appropriate governments since 1996.

A statement is enclosed.

Statement

The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights & Full Participation) Act, 1995", enacted and enforced from Feb., 1996 is an important landmark in Government of India's efforts to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities and their full participation in nation-building. It provides for both preventive and promotional aspects of rehabilitation like education, employment and vocational training, job reservation, research and manpower development, creation of barrier-free environment, rehabilitation for persons with disability, unemployment allowance for the disabled, special insurance scheme for disabled employees and establishment of homes for persons with severe disability etc.

The implementation of the provisions of the Act, requires a multi-sectoral collaborative approach, of all Ministries of the central Government, the State Governments and other appropriate authorities. They have all been requested to take necessary action

expeditiously. The following actions have been taken to implement various provisions of the Act:

(a) The National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation has been operationalised with effect from 24.10.97 to support entrepreneurial activity by the disabled.

(b) Notification of Central Co-ordination Committee as per Section 3 of the Act. The Committee has undertaken two meetings so far.

(c) Central Executive Committee has been notified. The Committee took four meetings so far to review the progress of implementation of the Act.

(d) The Chief Commissioner of Persons with Disabilities has been appointed and he has assumed the office w.e.f. 1-9-98.

(e) Five Core Groups of experts and relevant Ministries have been set up to make recommendations and formulate schemes to give effect to various provisions of the Act.

(f) 3% reservation of jobs in government establishments and Public Sector Undertakings has been provided under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, for the persons with disabilities.

(g) The Ministry has set up an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (SJ&E), to review the existing identification of posts (done in 1986) and to identify more suitable posts. Rules under section 73(1) and (2) have been notified.

(h) The National Fund for People with Disabilities, which was set up on 11.8.1983, has been activated for the first time and assistance has been sanctioned to non-government agencies. So far, 17 Projects have been sanctioned under the Scheme.

(i) A new Scheme, namely, Viklang Bandhu has been formulated to provide training to disabled volunteers. The National Institutes and Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres have so far trained 452 Viklang Bandhus.

(j) The Ministry has also launched a "National project to integrate the mentally retarded with family and community", which is a community based rehabilitation programme, being implemented through NGOs. Initially, a Pilot Project, covering 8500 beneficiaries in six States was taken up, which has now been expanded to cover about 30000 beneficiaries in 17 States.

(k) A Bill for setting up a National Trust for the welfare of persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities has been passed in the current Session Lok Sabha. The same is now required to be passed by the Rajya Sabha.

(l) The Rehabilitation Council of India, which is statutory body for standardisation and training of rehabilitation professional, recognition of training institutions and registration of professionals, has recently taken up a plan for man-power in disability rehabilitation throughout the country. Funds have been allocated to RCI for this purpose.

(m) Many State Governments have constituted Sate Coordination Committee and State Executive Committee and have appointed Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, to redress the grievances of the disabled persons.

(n) A Scheme called national programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities has also been proposed for establishing necessary infrastructure up to the District level to realise fully the objectives of the Act.

(o) A Conference of State Secretaries, in-charge of persons with disabilities was held on 12.2.97 at New Delhi to discuss the implementation of the Act. A Workshop of State Education Secretaries and State labour Secretaries was also held at New Delhi to sensitise the State officials and to monitor the progress of implementation of the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of rights and Full participation) Act, 1995.

(p) An Inter-ministerial Group has been constituted to monitor the progress made by the Central Ministries who have specific obligations under the Act.

(q) Two Schemes are being implemented for providing support to non-government agencies working for various programmes for rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

(r) In consonance with the policy of providing a complete package of welfare services to the physically, mentally, hearing and visually handicapped individuals and groups and in order to effectively deal with the multidimensional problems of the handicapped population, the Ministry of SJ & E has established six national/Apex Institutes, each working in a specific area of disability. These institutes are apex-level organisations in the field of education, training, vocational guidance, counselling, research, rehabilitation and development of suitable service modules for the disabled.

(s) The Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation (ALIMCO), Kanpur was established in November, 1972 as a Public Sector Company with the main objective of developing and manufacturing standard aids and appliances for the disabled persons and to make them available at reasonable prices to them throughout India. It manufactures wheel chairs, tricycle, artificial limbs, crutches and may other aids and appliances for the handicapped persons.

(t) The District Rehabilitation centre Scheme (DRC) was initiated by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during 1985 to provide comprehensive rehabilitation services to the rural disabled right at their door step in 11 districts of the country. Four Regional Rehabilitation Training Centres (RRTCs) have also been set up at Chennai, Mumbai, Cuttack and Lucknow for training and manpower development in the field of rehabilitation, particularly for the DRCs.

Scheme to Abolish Scavenging

†1932. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced any scheme to abolish the practice of scavenging by the end of 2000;